



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET:www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 1287

Date Received

Repository

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Reference No.
16041839

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

THOMASTON

State GA

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? YES NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.

Signature of Owner _____ Date 7/1/03

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side

1FDXE40S03HAM4182

Make

GEORGIE BOY

Model

MAVERICK

Model Year

1999

Date Purchased

6/4/2001

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

Mid-State RV Center 478-956-3654

Engine:

No. Cylinders

10

Fuel Type:

gasoline

Original Owner

Dealer's City

Byron

State

GA

Zip Code

31008

Transmission Type

Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

Cruise Control

Vehicle Component Code

181000 TIRES:TREAD/BELT

Multiple Failures: 2

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)

6/29/02

9/19/03

Failure Mileage

2110

25470

Failure Speed

80

60

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

FIRESTONE

Tire Model (Name or Number)

STEEL-TEX RADIAL TIR

Tire Size (Example P215/85R15)

225/75R15

DOT No. (Example: DOTM18ABC038)

VD11XD

Original Equipment

Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Highway near Wesley Maine

Byron, Maine, ME

Tire Component Code

180000 TIRES

Tire Failure Type TREAD SEPARATION

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash

Yes No

Fire

Yes No

Number of Persons Injured

NA

Number of Deaths

NA

Reported to Police

N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).

Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure;

i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

OUTER RIGHT REAR AND FRONT TIRES TREAD SEPARATED WHILE DRIVING AT 60 MPH. *AK

1-6/29/02 2-9/19/03

See attached

Include, if available, Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY.

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Thomaston, GA

November 9, 2003

I am a single senior citizen and have lived in an RV since May, 1996. June 4, 2001, I purchased the aforementioned RV. I usually drive 55 to 60 miles per hour.

The first tire failure was on a deserted stretch of Highway 9 in Maine. I had not experienced this problem before, therefore, did not realize what was happening at first. There was a loud rattling sound. I stopped twice and checked the vehicle but, as the tread was separating from the inside of the tire, saw nothing wrong. When I started again, the blowout occurred. There was no tread on the tire at this time. I had no signal on my cell phone and could not raise Channel 9 on my CB. I flagged down a passing motorist and had them send help from the next town - about 10 miles away. I did not know to keep what was left of this tire if I could have found it, so did not.

The second failure occurred just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. This was a front tire and I felt the vibration in the steering wheel and slowed and began trying to move to the shoulder when the tire blew. The tread had separated from the inside of the tire. I still have this tire. I contacted Firestone and was told to take the blown tire to a Firestone dealer and they would check the tread and give me credit on a new tire if credit was due. I don't want anymore Firestone tires.

I have 3 more of these tires on my RV and am going to have them checked for tread separation on the inside before traveling again. Naturally, I do not feel safe traveling on these tires but cannot afford to replace them if there isn't a problem. I certainly feel Firestone should recall these tires.